

detecting a need for assisting the user with input for a source code module under development;

determining a current cursor position representing a location in the source code module where the user is currently providing input;

C<sup>3</sup> determining input items which are suitable for input in the source code module at the current cursor position;

displaying to the user a list of said suitable input items; and

in response to selection by the user of a particular item from the list, automatically completing input at the current cursor position;

wherein said list of suitable input items includes items which are suitable by virtue of having a nested member which is suitable.

15. - 20. --CANCELLED--

#### Remarks

##### General

##### A. Status of application

Claims 1-20 are pending in the subject application. The Examiner had indicated in his prior Office Action allowable subject matter in claims 4, 7, 12-14 and 19-20 subject to rewriting those claims in independent form including base and intervening limitations (which were amended accordingly, in Applicant's response). However, the Examiner has modified that position based on newly-uncovered art. Presently, claim 12 is indicated as allowed, and claims 7, 10, 13, and 14 are indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form and incorporate base and intervening limitations. Claims 1-6, 8, 9, 11, and 15-20 stand rejected in view of new art. By this Amendment, Applicant has again amended certain claims in an effort to better distinguish the claimed invention. Re-examination and reconsideration of the claims, as amended, are respectfully requested.

#### B. Objected-to claims

The Examiner has indicated that claims 7, 10, 13, and 14 are allowable if rewritten in independent form, incorporating base and intervening limitations. These claims have been amended accordingly, and thus are now believed to be in condition for allowance. (A detailed discussion of Applicant's basis for patentability of these claims is provided in Applicant's previously-filed response.)

#### Prior art rejection: 35 USC Section 102(a): McFedries

Claims 1-6, 8-9, 11 and 15-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(a) as being anticipated by McFedries, P., *Visual Basic for Applications Unleashed*. In an effort to expedite prosecution of the present application, these claims have been canceled. Applicant intends to pursue these claims (or ones of equal or similar scope) in a continuation application.

#### Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks and the amendment to the claims, it is believed that all claims are now in condition for allowance. Hence, it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue at an early date.

Appended herewith is an attachment captioned "Version with markings to show changes made" presenting a marked-up version of the changes made to the application by the current amendment. An attachment captioned "Clean-copy Version of Claims" showing all remaining claims, in clean form, is also included. If for any reason the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would in any way expedite prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (408) 395-8819.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 26, 2001

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John A. Smart", is written over a horizontal line.

John A. Smart; Reg. No. 34,929  
Attorney of record

Inprise Corporation  
Legal Dept.  
100 Enterprise Way  
Scotts Valley, CA 95066  
(408) 395-8819  
(408) 490-2853 FAX

BORL/0170.00

**Version with markings to show changes made**

**In the specification:**

No changes made.

**In the claims:**

Claims 1-6, 8, 9, 11, and 15-20 have been canceled.

Claim 7 has been amended as follows:

7. (Amended) ~~The method of claim 4,~~ In a development system, a method for assisting a user with inputting source code for a computer program, the method comprising:  
detecting a need for assisting the user with input for a source code module under development;  
determining a current cursor position representing a location in the source code module where the user is currently providing input;  
determining input items which are suitable for input in the source code module at the current cursor position;  
displaying to the user a list of said suitable input items; and  
in response to selection by the user of a particular item from the list, automatically completing input at the current cursor position;  
wherein said detecting step includes:  
determining instances in the source code module where the system can automatically provide input; and  
wherein said detecting step includes:

determining in the source code module use of a structure variable which references a nested data member.

Claim 10 has been amended as follows:

10. (Amended) ~~The method of claim 1;~~ In a development system, a method for assisting a user with inputting source code for a computer program, the method comprising:

detecting a need for assisting the user with input for a source code module under development;

determining a current cursor position representing a location in the source code module where the user is currently providing input;

determining input items which are suitable for input in the source code module at the current cursor position;

displaying to the user a list of said suitable input items; and

in response to selection by the user of a particular item from the list, automatically completing input at the current cursor position;

wherein said current cursor position comprises a line number and a column position for a particular source code file.

Claim 13 has been amended as follows:

13. (Amended) ~~The method of claim 11;~~ In a development system, a method for assisting a user with inputting source code for a computer program, the method comprising:

detecting a need for assisting the user with input for a source code module under development;

determining a current cursor position representing a location in the source code module where the user is currently providing input;

determining input items which are suitable for input in the source code module at the current cursor position;

displaying to the user a list of said suitable input items; and  
in response to selection by the user of a particular item from the list,  
automatically completing input at the current cursor position;

wherein said step of determining input items which are suitable for input in the source code module includes:

determining which variables are within scope for the current cursor position; and

eliminating as a suitable input item any item that is not within scope for the current cursor position; and

wherein said step of compiling the source code module up to the current cursor position includes:

skipping compilation of any method defined in the source code unless the cursor is currently positioned within the method.

Claim 14 has been amended as follows:

14. (Amended) ~~The method of claim 1;~~ In a development system, a method for assisting a user with inputting source code for a computer program, the method comprising:

detecting a need for assisting the user with input for a source code module under development;

determining a current cursor position representing a location in the source code module where the user is currently providing input;

determining input items which are suitable for input in the source code module at the current cursor position;

displaying to the user a list of said suitable input items; and

in response to selection by the user of a particular item from the list,  
automatically completing input at the current cursor position;

wherein said list of suitable input items includes items which are suitable by virtue of having a nested member which is suitable.